(a) whether there are demands from some quarters to grant minority status to some Central Universities;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) Government's stand in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The demand for grant of minority status to Jamia Millia Islamia, a Central University established under the Jamia Millia Islamia Act, 1988 has been received from certain quarters.

Since the question relating to minority institution status of Aligarh Muslim University is pending before the Hon'bie Supreme Court of India wherein the interpretation of the term 'establishing' a University, as was laid down in the "Azeez Basha" matter is under challenge, the orders of the Hon'bie Supreme Court in that matter will have a bearing on the issue relating to the minority character of Jamia Millia Islamia, which is pending before the Hon'bie National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions.

Enrolment in secondary schools

†236. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ratio of enrolment in secondary schools of country is low;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the schemes being run by Government at present to augment the ratio of enrolment in secondary schools and the reasons for the failure of the same; and

(d) the target set by Government to augment the ratio of enrolment in secondary schools and the names of new schemes proposed to be started by Government to accomplish the targets within the stipulated time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) As per Selected Educational Statistics 2006-07, the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) at all India level for secondary stage (classes IX - X) was 53.20%.

(c) and (d) With a view to universalize access to secondary education and to improve its quality, a centrally sponsored scheme called Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) has been launched in March 2009 by the Central Government. The scheme envisages enhancing the enrollment ratio to 75% for classes IX-X within 5 years by providing a secondary school within a reasonable distance of every habitation, improving quality of education imparted at secondary level through making all secondary schools conform to prescribed norms, removal of gender, socio-economic and disability barriers, universal access to secondary level education by 2017, and universal retention by 2020.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi